

SENATE BILL 2979

By Burks

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 56
and Title 63, relative to registered nurse first
assistants.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 56-7-2408, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety and by substituting instead the following language:

(a)

(1) Whenever any contract, plan, or policy of insurance issued in this state provides for reimbursement of any service that is within the lawful scope of practice of a nurse in advanced practice, the insured or other person entitled to benefits under the contract, plan, or policy shall be entitled to reimbursement for the services, whether the services are performed by a duly licensed physician or a duly licensed nurse in advanced practice.

(2) Reimbursements shall be made in a timely manner.

(3) This subsection (a), relating to the services of a nurse in advanced practice, shall apply to all contracts, plans, or policies issued or renewed on or after July 1, 1996.

(b) Any contract, plan, or policy of insurance issued or renewed in this state on or after July 1, 2012, that provides coverage for surgical first assisting benefits or services shall be construed as providing coverage for a registered nurse first assistant who performs services that are within the scope of practice of the registered nurse first assistant.

(c) As used in this section:

(1) "Nurse in advanced practice" means a registered nurse who is duly licensed by the state board of nursing and who is also a nationally certified nurse practitioner, a nationally certified registered nurse anesthetist, or a nationally certified clinical specialist;

(2) "Perioperative nursing" means a practice of registered professional nursing in which the registered nurse provides preoperative, intraoperative, or postoperative nursing care to surgical patients;

(3) "Recognized educational curriculum program" means a program that:

(A) Addresses all content of the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses, or any successor entity, Core Curriculum for the Registered Nurse First Assistant and the Certification Board of Perioperative Nurses; and

(B) Includes a didactic and clinical internship as required by the curriculum; and

(4) "Registered nurse first assistant" means a person who:

(A) Is licensed as a registered nurse in this state;

(B) Is certified in perioperative nursing; and

(C) Has successfully completed a registered nurse first assistant education program that meets the education standard of the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses for a registered nurse first assistant.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring

it.